

## The Gleaming Gold Door

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I woke up in my chemistry class once I heard the bell ring and kids shoving their chairs in their desks. My best friend, Amber, is sitting next to me and asleep. I whisper to her, "Wake up, we must leave." She slowly opens her eyes and mumbles to me before rubbing her eyes and quickly standing up. We both walk out of the class and put our stuff down in our math class. "I have to use the bathroom," I said quickly. "Go ahead," Amber says, shrugging her shoulders and plopping her head on the table again.

After washing my hands, I fixed my hair and left the bathroom. Just as I stepped out, I noticed a silver door with a glowy tint that I had never seen before. As I approached the door, the gleaming gold lights coming from inside the door became brighter. I peeked through the cracks of the door, shining onto my feet. I walked closer to the door and slowly twisted the handle. Suddenly the door slammed open and a great gust of wind hit my face. You may think this is a sign for me to turn back, but no. Something about this scene wouldn't let me turn around or stop and think about what this is or where it came from. "Savannah? Savannah?" I hear Amber call out behind me. "I'm here!" I yelled, hoping she would come to analyze this suspicious door with me. "You were gone for 10 minutes! What are you doing?" she says, looking at me very oddly, not acknowledging the door I was standing in front of at all.

"Do you see this?" I point.

"See what? You're standing in front of a wall."

"There's something right here! You don't see it?"

"No? All I see are mediocre paintings and some trash on the floor."

“Oh...okay. I'll be back in class in a minute. Just leave me alone for a bit.”

She rolls her eyes and starts walking back towards class. I still stand in front of the open door, only glowing inside. My hands shake as I slowly step into the door. Once I am fully submerged in the thick air, glowing gold sparkles blur my vision.

I suddenly awoke. My vision became clearer as I came to consciousness. As I came to, I noticed my surroundings. Nothing but trees were in sight. I was overwhelmed with confusion. Where am I? What happened? Asking myself questions as if I'd be able to answer. I needed to go back through the door. I turned around quickly but realized the door was completely gone and I was abruptly stopped by someone who looked like a soldier.

“Que fais-tu tout seul dans les bois?” the soldier said with a concerned look. “What?” even though I didn't speak it, I recognized the language - French. “oh tu parles anglais,” he says and then pulls out an English dictionary, finding the words. “What - are - you - doing - alone - in - the - woods?” He struggles. “I-I-I, um-uh,” I stutter, trying to find the words to describe a lie. “I'm visiting!” I blurted out before thinking of how I was going to maintain that lie. “What an odd time to visit,” he says, suspicious of my demeanor. “Just family,” I say, smiling.

“11 pm - past curfew. Need to see your papers.” he has trouble saying.

I quickly think of a lie, I reach into my pocket, “Oh no! It seems I've left my papers at home! I am so sorry sir.” I say, waving my hands to signal that my papers are not with me. He sighs and looks around, “go home.”

“Yes sir!” I say as he turns around and walks away.

I need to get out of here. I look around for a minute to get used to my surroundings. All I could see were trees and the only noise I could hear was the leaves crunching as the soldier walked away. In the distance, I spotted a cabin with lights peeking out through the windows. I decided to take a closer look and slowly started walking towards the cabin. As I approached the cabin, I noticed the door was gleaming as it had been when I was at school. "I think this is my chance to go back home!" I thought to myself. I slowly turned the handle, my hand sweating as I was so eager to return home. I stepped into the cabin, starting to feel nauseous and dizzy as I had when I had first walked into the door at school.

I suddenly awoke to Amber shaking me and yelling my name. My eyes open wide as I hear her shout for help. I quickly stand up and am barely able to stand.

"Are you okay?!" she shouts as I slowly realize the state I am in. "I - I'm - I'm okay, I just need to sit down" I stutter. She walks me to a bench and I lay my head on her shoulder, falling into a deep sleep.

When I awoke, I had been sleeping on Amber's shoulder. "How long have I been asleep for?" I say to Amber while yawning. "Only 30 minutes," she replies. My eyes widened. "I need to go!" I shouted. "What? Are you okay?!?" she returns. "I'm okay but I'm just feeling sick. I want to go home." I lie, hoping it's not noticeable that I'm shaky and sweaty. Alice understands and isn't suspicious of my behavior even as I run out of the school. I quickly got into my car and drove home.

While I was in the car, I thought about everything. It seemed as if I had traveled back in time. But how do I go back? I needed to go home to get supplies. When thinking back to my time in the past, I noticed that it seemed to be the early 1900s so I needed to get clothes that would help me fit in. I remembered that when I was talking to the soldier, he was speaking French, so I needed a French

dictionary. I would also need to go to the bank to get euros. I should probably bring a knife too, for protection.

After I had gathered all my things, I headed to the library to get a French dictionary. I only searched for around 5 minutes before I found the perfect-sized dictionary that fit perfectly into my satchel.

I headed back to school and I immediately saw Amber.

“What are you wearing?” she says giggling. “Don't worry about it,” I replied and walked right past her. I could tell she was confused and concerned, but she didn't run after me, she let me go.

I went to the same spot where the door had appeared, and as soon as I stepped towards the area, the door appeared. Glowing that gold shimmer. I double-checked to make sure I had everything I needed to be safe and fit in. I slowly opened the door, making sure there was no one around to witness me vanish in thin air. I step in and get the same sensations I had experienced the first time. And then it all went black.

My eyes were still closed when I heard a clatter from around me.

*\*In German\**

“So do we know who she is?”

“No, she has to be French though, I found this stuff on her.”

“We will send her to the concentration camps.”

“I will call to get her transferred immediately.”

Even though I couldn't understand them, I knew they were talking about me. Somehow they knew I had woken up because they went silent. I could hear the creak of the floor as they slowly walked towards me. I was so frightened so I quickly stood up and ran out of the cabin. I could hear yelling behind me. I looked back at the cabin and noticed that it was the same cabin that I had encountered before. It

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didn't take me long to notice that the men had run back into the house and returned outside with an AR-15. The last thing I heard was the sound of the shot. Then I felt a stabbing pain in my arm.

After that, everything went black.

I suddenly woke up with a bandage around my arm. I was lying on an uncomfortable mat. When I looked around, it seemed I was in some sort of tent. There was a lot of chatter but no one was in sight. It sounded like it was coming from outside the tent. I stood up and noticed that I had a blue and gray striped suit on as if I were a prisoner. My stomach churned as I slowly walked out of the tent to see the brightness of the sky and many other people wearing the same thing that I was. We were all in a gated community with (what looked to be) no escape.

I pulled someone aside. It took me a few tries to find someone who spoke English but eventually, I did.

“Excuse me?”

“Bonjour.”

“Do you speak English?”

“Yes, I am from America.”

“What are you doing in France then?”

“I was captured for being a spy. I've been here for a few weeks. You know, people are talking about you, the guards that brought you in think that you're a spy too.”

“What?! I'm not a spy! I never even chose to be here in the first place!”

“Then why are you here?”

“Never mind,” I say, flailing my arms, making my wound sting and making me groan in agony.

“So what is even going on?”

“Nazis have taken over France. We are in a concentration camp and there's no way for us to get out due to the hundreds of soldiers ready to attack at any moment.”

“Wow,” I reply, as it's the only word I can seem to get out of my mouth. I remember learning about this in school! The Nazi Occupation of France was when Hitler and the Nazis invaded France.

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“What is the date?”

“Well, it's May 27th, 1940.”

Wow. I had traveled back in time to almost 90 years ago.

I could only wonder why. Why was I here? What was I needing to do here? Am I supposed to be here? There were so many thoughts crowding in my head. I didn't know what to do. But then I looked around me and saw the faces of so many innocent people and I instantly knew what I had to do.

I had to help them escape.

During the next couple of days, I planned the escape. I had a plan of distraction. One of the friends I had made was being released(the reason why was unknown), but he was willing to help me. He had access to all different types of bombs. So, after his release, he would gather bombs and plant one not far from the camps. Then, after the guards were distracted by the commotion that the bomb caused, he would sneak into the camp using a secret tunnel under the fence. He will give me the grenades he had saved for me and in return, I will give him all of the money I had brought with me. That was the plan.

The night of the escape was going exactly as planned. Suddenly everyone jumped as the loud bang of the bomb disrupted everyone's slumber at 2:47 am. Just as I had planned. I quickly went to the secret tunnel and found my friend holding the grenades. We traded out items and before he left, he gave me a nod of gratitude. I gathered everyone and released them all secretly. The guards were still distracted by the bomb so they didn't notice anything. Once I had ensured everyone had escaped, I threw the grenades and ran as quickly as I could into the forest, behind a tree.

I watched with satisfaction as the camp burst into flames. The guards screamed in agony from their injuries. The confusion on their faces when they realized there was no prisoner in sight.

I walked away, through the gold door. Back home.